

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS STATE 100773

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT:GREEK, TURKISH BASE MATTERS: NOON BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S CONCERNING GREEK AND TURKISH BASE
SITUATION NOON PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 30:

QUOTE: Q: STILL TRYING TO TURN TO A NEW CHAPTER, AS THE
PRESIDENT WISHES US ALL TO -- THE ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF
GREECE ON BASES BRINGS TO MIND THE FEARS EXPRESSED BY
SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS PROBABLY SIX WEEKS AGO THAT WITHIN
TWO OR THREE WEEKS THE TURKS WOULD BEGIN CLOSING US OUT OF
THE BASES THERE. HOW DO THOSE FEARS NOW STACK UP?
ARE THE TURKS DOING ANYTHING ABOUT OUR BASES, OR WAS THAT
KIND OF AN OVER-FEAR?

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A: AT THE PRESENT TIME, NO. THEY ARE NOT.

Q: OUR SITUATION IN TURKEY IS SECURE AT THE PRESENT TIME?

A: ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WAS OVER THERE. HE HAD SOME VERY GOOD TALKS WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. AND, AS YOU ALL KNOW, HE THEN WENT TO ATHENS AND HAD TALKS WITH THEM. THE QUESTION OF OUR CONTINUING GOOD RELATIONS

WITH TURKEY OBVIOUSLY IS GOING TO BE DEPENDENT UPON THE ACTION THAT WE HOPE WILL BE TAKEN IN CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO THE RESUMPTION OF TURKISH MILITARY AID. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE MOVEMENT ON THIS ON THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD BILL. BUT AS OF NOW I THINK AS A RESULT OF ART HARTMAN'S TRIP OUT THERE, WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THAT THEY KNOW THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION HERE, AND WE HOPE THAT THERE CAN BE PROGRESS. AND IF THERE IS PROGRESS ON THE MILITARY AID FRONT, THEN I HOPE THAT THIS WILL NOT BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY NOW.

Q: CAN I JUST ASK YOU, COULD YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO TELL US ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE IMPACT ON NATO OF THE GREEK BASE CLOSINGS OR THE CHANGES IN CONTROL OF SOME OF THEM -- THE END OF HOMEPORTING AND THE FACT THAT GREEK OFFICERS WILL BE IN CHARGE OF OTHER BASES?

A: WELL, NOW, I THINK WE OUGHT TO BE ACCURATE HERE ON JUST WHAT -- AS YOU SAY, THAT GREEK OFFICERS SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF OTHER BASES. THE ONLY DECISION THAT CAME OUT OF THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WAS THE CLOSING OF THE BASE AT ATHENS AIRPORT, AT HELLENIKON. AND EVEN THERE THERE ARE GOING TO BE CERTAIN OF OUR FACILITIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE ALSO TO GREEK DEFENSE NEEDS THAT WILL BE CONTINUED. AND THE ONLY OTHER ACTION THAT WAS TAKEN WAS THE TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING AT ELEFSIS.

THERE WAS NO DECISION WITH REGARD TO ANY OF THE OTHER BASES. THERE WILL BE A THIRD ROUND OF TALKS. THERE HAS BEEN NO DATE SET YET FOR THIS. THE TALKS THAT WE'VE HAD NOW AND THE PREVIOUS ONES, WHICH I THINK WERE HELD UNCLASSIFIED

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LAST FEBRUARY, WERE HELD IN A VERY COOPERATIVE SPIRIT, I WANT TO UNDERLINE THAT. AND THE DECISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN SO FAR HAVE BEEN TAKEN MUTUALLY. AND, IN OUR VIEW AT LEAST, THIS OUGHT TO HELP STRENGTHEN AND ENSURE THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE INTERESTS THAT WE HAVE, THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAVE.

Q: THE REPORTS ABOUT THE COMMANDERS SWITCHING TO GREEK CONTROL, ARE THOSE REPORTS WRONG OR WHAT?

A: WELL, AT THE ONE BASED IN ATHENS, HELLENIKON --

Q: HAS GONE OVER TO GREEK OFFICERS?

A: YES, THAT WOULD. BUT IT'S ONLY ONE BASE.

Q: BUT THERE WERE REPORTS THIS MORNING OF SEVERAL.

A: YES. IT'S JUST THAT ONE BASE. UNQUOTE

(FYI THOSE Q'S AND A'S CONCERNING GREEK CONTROL OF
INSTALLATIONS WHERE U.S. FACILITIES REMAIN WERE
SUBSEQUENTLY CLARIFIED TO CONFORM WITH LAST PARA
OF JOINT STATEMENT). KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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